

Arms follow killings in Salvador

The people of San Antonia Abad, a slum on the edge of San Salvador, have been talking about men who wear army uniforms and who come to slaughter them in the early hours. On their last visit to the slum 19 civilians were killed. Only hours later, in Washington, it was announced that the United States is to send \$55m (£29.4m) worth of emergency military equipment to El Salvador. Page 6

Theatres to cut back

Arts Council subsidies this year for the four national theatre, opera and ballet companies will average 10 per cent, which is below the inflation level. The companies said they would have to cut back on productions and repertory. Page 2

S Africa press curb scheme

Control of journalists through compulsory registration is proposed in a report tabled in South Africa's Parliament. There would be provision for "striking off" the register, and using the work of an unenrolled journalist would be illegal. Page 7

Israel publishes autonomy plan

Israel has officially published its proposals for a Palestinian council to administer the West Bank and Gaza. It envisages an authority with powers in 13 spheres, including finance and justice, in contrast to the Egyptian desire to see a council with legislative as well as executive functions. Page 6

Assembly plan for Ulster

The Government is planning an elected assembly for Northern Ireland which would have only advisory or consultative powers until agreement could be reached on a more devolved administration. Page 2

Hammarskjold death claim

Moise Tshombe, the former Prime Minister of the Congo, was responsible for the death of Dag Hammarskjold, according to Francis Boden, who is accused of kidnapping Mr Tshombe. Mr Hammarskjold died in the wreckage of an aircraft in 1961 while Secretary-General of the United Nations. Page 7

£10m a week petrol 'subsidy'

The cost of a gallon of 4-star petrol in some towns has dropped below £1.50 as the price war heats up. The petrol makers, however, are cutting the cost, paying almost £10m a week in support measures. Page 13

Bank joins in campaign to cut US loan rates

By David Blake, Economics Editor

Mr Gordon Richardson, the Governor of the Bank of England, last night joined in the campaign to make America cut its interest rates. In a speech to the annual dinner of the Overseas Bankers Club in London, he said that the two main consequences of American policy were causing concern throughout the world.

There were too much of the strain of the fight against inflation was being borne by monetary policy and not enough by cuts in the public deficit. The second was that interest rates in America were likely to be very volatile. As a result, he said, foreign exchanges and domestic business could be harmed.

The Governor's speech is the latest chapter in what is turning into an increasingly intense war of words between Europe and America. Last week, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Finance Ministers of France and Germany all called on the Reagan Administration to change economic policy to help the rest of the world.

Leading United States banks yesterday began raising interest rates, a move that provoked a sharp decline in share prices on Wall Street, while boosting the value of the dollar.

Britain and other countries could not afford to relax anti-inflationary policy. There was no prospect of getting back to sixties growth rates for the economy.

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons, ruled out any early reduction in unemployment last night and forecast a long-term struggle to hold on to present living standards. In one of the gloomiest speeches to be made by a Cabinet Minister in recent months, Mr Pym said that public expectations were not high.

They are thus trying to stress the Americans to take part in joint action to bring interest rates down everywhere.

At the Ottawa economic summit last summer, the European leaders said that the Americans could not expect them to put up with high interest rates after Christmas.

The issue will become increasingly important as a dominant feature in preparations for the world economic summit to be held in France in June.

Mr Richardson's call for the United States "to use whatever scope exists to moderate the impact overseas" in its policies came as part of a call for greater currency stability. The fluctuation of the world's currency markets was now posing greater dangers to world trade, he said.

Wall Street hit page 13

Owner vanishes in lost ships mystery

By Peter Evans and Mario Modiano

Investigators from the International Maritime Bureau, London, are looking for cargo reported to have been mysteriously off-loaded from a Greek-owned ship, the Viki K, before the vanished in the Red Sea.

The Viki K's hull was insured on the London market for up to £1m. She is one of eight freighters acquired by Mr Demetrios Kavadas, the second to be lost and the rest are reported to be in trouble.

Mr Kavadas has also disappeared. He had spent a luxurious seaside holiday at Glyfada near Athens, leaving behind total debts estimated at £5m, and Mrs Kavadas says she does not know where he is.

Mr Kavadas was sentenced by a Piraeus court in his absence last Friday to three years' imprisonment and fined one million drachmas (£10,000) for issuing a bogus cheque for \$76,000.

The Court of Appeal is expected to give judgment this week on issues arising in a different case involving the Salem, the tanker scuttled by its owners to disguise the fact that they had sold its 550m.

Botham's protest

Ian Botham, in hiring a centurion for England, threatened to walk off the field in protest against Indian delaying tactics in the Test match in Kanpur. Page 18

Leader page 11

Letters: On union legislation, from Mr Walter Goldsmith; Ulster, from Professor Cornelius O'Leary, and Mr D. H. Young

Leading articles: SDP leadership; Long-distance footpaths

Features: pages 8 and 10

How university fees hurt everyone, by Rudolph Quirk; Divorce: Why should a wife be the loser?; The urchin who co-starred with Callas

Obituary: page 12

Lord Ritchie-Calder, Sir John Foster, Sir Rudolph Peters

Home News 2-5

Overseas

Arts

Bridge

Business

Church

Court

Crossword

Diary

Events

Law Report

Letters

Services

TV & Radio

Theatre, etc

25 Years Ago

Weather

22

12

21

22

12

21

22

22

22

22

22

22

22

22

22

22

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Elected assembly planned for Northern Ireland

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Government is considering an elected assembly for Northern Ireland which would be given only advisory or consultative powers until agreement could be reached on a more fully devolved administration.

One idea for developing the system, according to Official Unionists who met Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday, is for a weighted majority in the assembly. That would mean that a majority would have to agree before any further progress could be made on giving the assembly more powers.

The figure being suggested for the weighted majority is 70 per cent, which has been criticized as far too high. It is believed that Mr Prior has ruled out institutionalized power-sharing, preferring to leave all decisions on the future development of the system to an assembly of 78 members; which it is proposed the second stage is much more contentious.

Whatever powers were eventually returned to an assembly, it is almost inconceivable that in the near future security would be returned to a devolved administration. However, it is thought that on some social and economic issues a wide measure of agreement could be reached and the 70 per cent hurdle cleared.

Although Mr Prior is understood not to have a tight time-

scale, he will continue talking to politicians until he puts definite proposals to the

Opposition.

Mr Harold McCusker, Official Unionist MP for Amagh, said: "My objection is that I don't like an arbitrary figure being set. Seventy per cent is almost unobtainable."

Mr Prior's plans are not yet complete and he will continue talking to politicians until he puts definite proposals to the

Opposition.

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Policeman paid informer with drugs, QC says

From Our Correspondent, York

Five drug squad detectives declared war on addicts in Hull by paying an underworld informer with drugs, Mr Brian Walsh, QC, told York Crown Court yesterday.

The officers recruited a small-time pusher to supply illegal drugs to suspects before they arrested them, it was claimed.

Yesterday the jury was told how the informer, Thomas Hamilton Dunsmore, aged 30, was paid with heroin, LSD, cocaine, and cannabis from the drug squad's safe.

The officer, a detective inspector, and four detective constables based at Hull, denied 10 offences under the misuse of Drugs Act.

Mr Walsh, for the prosecution, told the jury that the officers allowed Mr Dunsmore freely to peddle hard core drugs for almost three years.

He said the offences resulted in two of the officers, Det Constable Ian Davidson and Det Constable Philip Ruby, receiving substantial sums of money.

Mr Walsh said the offences began in 1977, when two of the officers recruited Mr Dunsmore as an informer after arresting him in possession of cannabis in a public house in Hull.

No charges were preferred, but, Mr Walsh said, "in a nutshell, between 1977 and 1979 the officers quite unlawfully supplied drugs for himself and for sale as a reward or inducement to give them information about drugs and drug users."

Mr Dunsmore's job was to supply the drugs to other users, who were then arrested in possession, to order supplies of cannabis from local pushers, so that the detectives could arrest them when they attempted to sell them, he said.

"Whether this was done by the officers out of zeal to gain convictions to boost the records of individual officers so that in the end they could get promotion, it was wrong, illegal, and wholly improper conduct," he said.

He added that each time there was a conviction drugs were given to Mr Dunsmore as a reward or inducement to trap someone else.

The trial continues today.

Courts urged to shun inflated traffic fines

By Frances Gibb

Road traffic fines should remain at present levels although inflation has more than doubled since they were last reviewed, the Magistrates' Association recommended yesterday.

In its latest guidelines on road traffic offence penalties, the first since August 1978, the association says that after consulting its branches, the overwhelming response was "that people's financial circumstances had not necessarily gone up in accordance with inflation".

Magistrates should therefore bear that in mind when fixing the amount of fines, it says. "A court should use its discretion in all the circumstances of the case in deciding whether a fine should be adjusted accordingly."

But the recommended freeze on fine levels might only be a short-lived respite, the association says. The Criminal Justice Bill, now before the Commons, proposes penalty increases for all road traffic offences. Further guidelines might therefore be issued later this year.

The latest guidelines, however, do include increased penalties for failing to stop and failing to report an accident, in line with the increase in the maximum penalty for those offences in the Transport Act 1981.

The recommended penalties are: £100 and endorsement and disqualification should reflect this."

SIKH KIDNAP FATHER CONVICTED

A Sikh who kidnapped his daughter when she defied him over an arranged marriage and ran away to live with her boyfriend was given a prison sentence of two years suspended for two years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Ranjit Rai, aged 43, of Orchard Road, Darlington, Co Durham, was convicted of assault causing actual bodily harm on his daughter, Jasbir, aged 21, and causing grievous bodily harm to his boyfriend, Mr Muhammad Hanif, a Muslim. He had denied the charges.

His son, Lakhbir Rai, aged 19, unemployed, of the same address, pleaded guilty to assaulting Mr Hanif and was jailed for six months. He was allowed to leave the court because both he and his father had been in custody.

The girl's fiancé in the arranged marriage, Barinder Bains, aged 23, a machine operator of Speckmans Way, Slough, Berkshire, was given a prison sentence of six months, suspended for two years. He admitted impeding the arrest of the two other men.

PROTEST MARS CD OPENING

Anti-nuclear protesters disrupted yesterday's opening of the headquarters of the United Kingdom's early-warning and monitoring organization which exists to give public warnings of air attacks and radio active fallout.

About fifty members of the Oxford-based Campaign Atom picketed the Civil Defence building at Cowley Barracks, Oxford. Many wore white boiler suits and gas masks.

They festooned the walls and gates with balloons and banners in protest. They want Oxford to be declared a nuclear-free zone.

Mr Mark Levene and Mr Glyn Robinson, two members of Campaign Atom were allowed in to put their objections to Mr Roy Cooke, the director.

Mr Levene said: "They claim their sole function is to advise the public in the event of a nuclear war, but they have a military role and are part of the war-fighting apparatus."

Schoolboy rapists to be detained 18 months

Two schoolboys who raped a girl, aged 13, were each ordered to be detained for 18 months yesterday when Mr Justice Taylor, told Leeds Crown Court that neither a detention centre nor Borstal would adequate.

The boys, both aged 15, had pleaded guilty to raping the girl and aiding and abetting each other to commit rape. A third boy, also aged 15, who admired indecently assaulting the girl and aiding and abetting one of the other boys in an offence of attempted rape, was sentenced to six months in a detention centre.

The judge, who directed that the three boys and the girl should not be identified, told the two rapists: "It is necessary you should be sent for a period of custody so that not only you realize, because I believe you do, that others realize that to attack a girl this way is quite unacceptable in society".

Mr Norman Jones, for the prosecution, said the three boys and the girl attended the same school.

In Camberwell, south London, a boy aged 15 was remanded in custody by magistrates yesterday, accused of raping two women in one week. He will appear at Lewisham North juvenile court, south London, next Tuesday.

The boy is also accused of causing grievous bodily harm to one of the victims and of robbing the other of cash and jewellery worth £200.

The accused men, all from Hull, are: Det Insp Mike Lord, aged 44, of St Margaret's Avenue, who denies possessing cannabis; Constable Davidson, aged 31, of Willerby Road, who denies inciting another to supply cannabis, two counts of unlawfully supplying LSD and heroin, and being concerned in supplying cannabis.

Constable Atkins, aged 26, of Norland Avenue, who denies unlawful possession and supply of cannabis, unlawfully supplying LSD, and inciting another to supply LSD, and cocaine.

Constable Andrew Abbott, aged 33, of Riversdale Road, who denies unlawfully possessing and supplying cannabis.

The trial continues today.



Mr Reg J. Gadsden, who will judge the six group winners for the Supreme Champion award at Crufts dog show at Earls Court, London, on Sunday week, with his fox terrier Vicky.

By Kenneth Gosling

The prospect of multichannel television on American lines is greeted with little enthusiasm by London viewers, according to a survey carried out for the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

A thousand people were invited to complete a questionnaire in which they were asked what they felt about five more television channels providing programmes by satellite, and for their reactions to pay-television and cheap video-cassette recorders.

Most people who took part in the survey said they would prefer to see the present channels improved than to have more channels.

A framework for television satellite broadcasting in Europe was established in 1977 when five channels were assigned to give national coverage for each European country.

The first such broadcasts will take place in about three years.

A report by Dr Mallory Weber, the IBA's deputy head of research, indicates that people are not simply against change; they were, for instance, generally in favour of video-cassette recorders.

One viewer said: "Five more channels on television would give programme planners more chance to use poor quality and cheap rubbish.

By putting the Maplin case in objections to Stansted the association will give Mr Graham Eyre, the inquiry inspector, an opportunity to recommend that Maplin should be considered instead of Stansted. In the light of evidence given so far, it is

Planners say airport inquiry is bungled

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Town and Country Planning Association announced yesterday that it had withdrawn its formal application to build London's third airport at Maplin Sands in Essex. Its action will reduce further Maplin's slim chances of being chosen as the airport site.

The move by the association is one of a series of policy changes that have heaped complications on the inquiry since it opened last year. Mr David Hall, director of the association, said yesterday that a local inquiry into merits of enlarging the airport at Stansted was far too narrow a format for such a broad issue as London's third airport.

He considered the present inquiry, which will hear detailed evidence about Stansted and a possible fifth terminal at Heathrow, far less suitable than a planning inquiry commission which could initiate its own research and consider a range of suitable sites.

"The Government has bungled the whole process", Mr Hall said. "It seems to have learnt nothing from the experience of other big inquiries like Windscale and the Vale of Belvoir". The Stansted inquiry has been punctuated by reproofs from Mr Eyre to government departments for failing to produce adequate evidence about the local impact of an enlarged Stansted.

Mr Hall released the text of a letter he sent last week to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment. It included formal withdrawal of the Maplin application "on the ground of what has become, in our view, a wasteful and inappropriate proceeding".

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A few years ago, I became environmental programmes coordinator at our headquarters in Portsmouth, responsible for energy conservation in our buildings. My manager here encouraged me to explore all possible solutions.

Like businesses all over Britain, we were starting to worry seriously about cutting energy waste.

So besides persuading people to be careful with the way they use lights and to accept slightly cooler offices, we took a look at a potential source of help that was right under our noses, the computer.

It was a real breakthrough.

We programmed computers to analyse energy use and to warn us where and when we were overstepping the mark. The computers did the dull work. We did the thinking.

Some of our computers were set energy targets and programmed to spread the load sensibly. We even found a way to channel the heat generated by our computers into the central heating system. I had my doubts at first, but was surprised by the results.

We've already cut our energy bill by five percent a year for the past six or seven years. Now we're passing on what we've learned to other companies.

The people I'm working with are really enthusiastic about using sophisticated computer technology to help solve a major problem like the energy shortage.

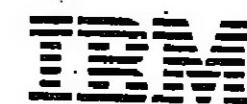
After all, it's a problem that affects everyone in Britain, not just people in business."

Ron Akass, IBM UK

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100,000 Europeans work for IBM

Israelis
unveil
autonomy
package

From Moshe Bril
Tel Aviv, Feb 1

rael last night officially announced its intention to administer the West Bank and Gaza under a civilian authority which will have no military or security forces.

The report, which runs to three volumes and more than 1,300 pages, proposes the setting up of a General Council for Journalists, which would regulate entry to the profession and sit in judgment on journalists accused of violating a statutory code of conduct.

The ultimate sanction available to the council would be to strike a journalist off the roll. Anyone who employed, published or broadcast the work of an unenrolled journalist would be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of up to \$5,000 rand (£2,780).

The report presents its recommendations as being intended to "professionalise journalism by putting it on the same footing as the other great historic and learned

South African journalists alarmed by registry plan

From Michael Hornsby, Cape Town, Feb 1

The compulsory registration of all journalists on a central roll, from which those found guilty of "improper conduct" could be struck off and thereby prohibited from exercising their profession, is the central recommendation of an important report on the South African mass media tabled in Parliament here today.

The Government-commissioned report, drawn up by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Martin Steyn, a former Administrator-General of Namibia (South-West Africa), is widely seen in journalistic circles as the most serious threat to press freedom in the modern history of South Africa.

The report, which runs to three volumes and more than 1,300 pages, proposes the setting up of a General Council for Journalists, which would regulate entry to the profession and sit in judgment on journalists accused of violating a statutory code of conduct.

The ultimate sanction available to the council would be to strike a journalist off the roll. Anyone who employed, published or broadcast the work of an unenrolled journalist would be guilty of an offence and liable to a fine of up to \$5,000 rand (£2,780).

The report presents its recommendations as being intended to "professionalise journalism by putting it on the same footing as the other great historic and learned

professions", such as medicine and the law. (The General Council would, for example, set entrance examinations for aspiring journalists.)

It is proposed that the council should have 12 members, of whom three would be Government appointees, three chosen by newspaper journalists, three by magazine journalists and three by broadcasting journalists. They would serve for two years. During the first year of the council's life, however, all its members would be appointed by the Government.

There seems little doubt that the council's membership would be heavily weighted towards the generally pro-Government Afrikaans end of the press spectrum. The main radio and television network, the South African Broadcasting Corporation, is largely a tool of Government propaganda while most magazines are owned by Afrikaans press groups.

Although the report finds fault with the Afrikaans press for being still too closely identified with Afrikaner nationalism, its most barbed shafts are reserved for the "negativistic" reporting of the English-language press, which is the chief and certainly most vociferous vehicle for criticism of apartheid.

The report also criticizes the Government for excessive secrecy. It then goes on, however, to plead for the

exhumation of the discredited Department of Information (disbanded after the "Muldergate" scandal), arguing that it should be empowered to conduct both "covert and overt" propaganda without having to act publicly for its use of Government funds.

The report comes close to saying that the Government was wrong in 1977 to ban independent black newspapers like *The World* and *The Post*, but says that the "moderate black community" should be encouraged to establish an independent black press.

The report also calls for greater diversification of newspaper ownership. In particular, it recommends that "cross-holdings" between the two big English-language groups, Argus and South African Associated Newspapers, should be ended.

Much of the report is devoted to a lengthy and repetitive analysis of what it calls "the South African circumstance", chiefly the external military threat posed by the Soviet Union and the internal subversive threat posed by alleged Soviet proxies, which include church, academic and press critics of apartheid as well as black movements.

A large section of the press, the report complains, is dedicated to intensifying South Africa's "pariah status" and to the "substitution of a radically different political and socio-economic order for that now prevailing in South Africa".



Frenzied killer strangled yachtsman

Mr Michael Crocker, aged 42 (right), who was strangled on board his yacht in the Caribbean, with his wife Trisha and Mr David Brownjohn, who helped to build the yacht.

Trinidad police said yesterday that they believed the strangler had reacted in a frenzy of fear after boarding the boat to rob it.

He stabbed Mr David Drake, aged 40, in the neck. Mr Drake, Lloyds Bank deputy regional general manager in Birmingham, is recovering satisfactorily in hospital.

Mr Randolph Burroughs, the Commissioner of Police for Trinidad and Tobago, is leading the manhunt.

Mrs Crocker was under police

guard yesterday recovering from shock in an hotel in Port of Spain. The British High Commission said she intended to fly home with her husband's body as soon as possible.

The killer surprised the sleeping couple, who had anchored the 30ft sloop Nyn about 500 yards from shore in the Gulf of Paria.

The dream life built by the Crockers lasted only five months after they left Britain for a 10-year world cruise.

Both couples were asleep in their berths when they were awoken by the intruder. Mr Crocker went to investigate and was

confronted by a man wielding a knife and demanding money.

Mrs Crocker gave him \$360, and both couples pleaded with him to go away. Instead, he ordered Mrs Crocker to tie up her husband and the Drakes. He became impatient at her nervous attempts to tie up her husband and he began to do it himself.

As the man tightened the ropes Mr Crocker yelled out to the others: "Jump overboard". Before anyone could move the man lashed out, slashing Mr Drake's throat. Then in his frenzied attempt to tie Mr Crocker, he strangled him.

Defiant Ecevit freed from detention

From Our Correspondent
Ankara, Feb 1

Mr Bulent Ecevit, the former Turkish Prime Minister, emerged today from two months in prison, making clear that his fighting spirit was unaffected.

Mr Ecevit, a social democrat, was sent to prison by a military court for allegedly violating a ban, imposed by the military rulers, on public statements by former politicians.

He was said to have distributed a statement to the foreign press containing his replies to the charges presented by General Kenan Evren, the head of state, against pre-coup political leaders to justify the dissolution of the political parties last October.

Arriving at his home to a loud reception by his friends and former party followers, Mr Ecevit told the foreign press corps that though he was discharged from the prison, "so long as the limitations on my freedom continue, I feel in prison everywhere".

Defending the freedom of thought and expression, which he said was a means of achieving humane solutions to human problems "without which a society is bound to stagnate and the majority is doomed to exploitation and indignity".

"The will for freedom and democracy shall peacefully break through all obstacles."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Two saved from ice by Britons

An RAF officer and four soldiers drove across a frozen Norwegian lake today to save a father and son who had been fishing through a hole in the ice when it cracked beneath them.

The pair were floundering in the water of Lake Voss, near Bergen while other fisherman looked on helplessly, afraid to go across the thin ice. Flight Lieutenant John Dungate, aged 42, of Welton, Lincolnshire, jumped into his Snowcat tracked vehicle and drove nearly a quarter of a mile across the ice.

With him was his team from the Royal Signals. They pulled the men from the water, wrapped them in blankets and then drove back across the ice to an ambulance.

E German plea to disarm

Berlin. — East Germany's Protestant Church, the only important body in the country not state-controlled, has called for moves towards unilateral disarmament, authoritative Church sources said.

The move came in a report by Bishop Werner Krusche, approved at a national synod last weekend from which the East German Government barred Western reporters.

Kurds release Austrians

Vienna. — Three Austrians taken hostage by Kurdish nationalists in Iraq last November have been released, the Austrian Foreign Ministry said. Herr Stephen Schmidt, Herr Otto Stern and Herr Walter Brendiger were working for an Austrian construction firm when they were kidnapped.

British heart man better

Peking. — Mr Leslie Applewhite, the British engineer whose heart stopped beating for 55 minutes while he was being treated for a heart attack, has left Xian in north-western China where he was in hospital.

A British Embassy spokesman said that Mr Applewhite, aged 27, was on his way to Peking and would fly home on Thursday.

Pyrenees border traffic blocked for fourth day

From Our Correspondent, Madrid, Feb 1

Road traffic between Spain and France remained almost at a standstill today for the fourth day in a row, as a result of a work-to-rule by French customs officials and roadblocks organized by lorries angered at the delays.

A written assurance from the French authorities, that the passage of vehicles would be allowed to speed up, was delivered yesterday to the civil governor of the Spanish border province of Guipuzcoa. A few of the thousands of lorries waiting on both sides of the frontier began moving past a customs point at Irún-Hendaye, on one of the main routes, at about one minute early today.

However, soon after mid-day the French customs officials were authorizing

It's the same old story, reverberating emptily about in drab, chilly stations; meaningless excuses for unpardonable inefficiencies.

When we were invited to design an integrated audio-visual communications system for the new Tyne and Wear Metro, we decided to tackle the injury and the insult together.

In its entirety, the system will greatly reduce the likelihood of delays. But when they are unavoidable, at least you'll hear about them quickly and clearly.

A total of 432 loudspeakers (most of them high-quality 30 watt units) will broadcast announcements over each of the forty-two stations.

Fifteen stations will be continuously scanned by eighty-six closed circuit TV cameras.

And fourteen will be provided with a two-way communication point, serving as a combined emergency alarm system and passenger enquiry terminal.

The entire system will be monitored

and co-ordinated at a Control Centre in South Gosforth.

You could call it the acceptable face of the microchip.

We feel the same sense of corporate satisfaction when a pilot learns to fly a new aeroplane without so much as leaving the ground, on a Rediffusion flight simulator.

Or a sailor, days from land, pinpoints his position to within 200 metres, using a Rediffusion navigation system.

Or whenever a businessman punches the keys on his desktop System Alpha Teleputer terminal and gains instant access to information it might have taken him days to acquire in the past.

And indeed, whenever the comfort, enjoyment and convenience of people anywhere are enhanced by our work in the interrelated worlds of entertainment and communication.

REDFUSION

"RHUBARB RHUBARB REGRETS BLAH BLAH BLAH CRACKLE HISS HOWL BULL BULL BULL PASSENGERS RHUBARB CRACKLE BLAH BLAH BLAH BULL BULL BUZZ BUZZ HOWL HISS CRACKLE DELAY,"

How often have you heard these immortal words?

THE ARTS

Television

A decent burial

The death of a dosser is the saddest thing, but it was Irish Night, too, on *Police* (BBC 1) so a fumbling anarchy tempered the sadness. One of the gentlemen across the road had been found dead at the foot of the stairs, had he? Well, no, said the lady from the better side of the street — shrug and nursing of lips not perhaps on show but certainly implied — she could not really say whether one of them had walked with a stick; they were all so drunk all the time what difference did it make? There are moments every week when *Police* should be called "public".

The problem, of course, was shaking Mickie the Bricker's fellow-dossers out of their bovine, alcoholic daze enough to discover which of them, if any, had given him a push. Nobody made a bit of sense first time round, so the house was sealed off, "overnight accommodation" provided at the Station (with Full English Breakfast?) and further tuncures withheld for 24 hours. The next day, it was clear that they all had told the story they had been trying to articulate before. Sentences rose gently and trailed off, eyes were met or evaded, big hands sweated, opened and shut. It was good to the Chief Inspector's pleasure, they all had to be sent home. The Coroner was called in and the body, said to have helped to build Aldermaston Research Station and to have been sustained in a late life of liquor by revenue from property in Ireland, was decently buried. Entralling-Horizon (BBC2) asked "What happened to the Energy Crisis?" and Christopher Woolley surveyed the current state of resources and research into finite and alternative forms of power to the point where the information piled up into what was described in the programme itself as a fatiguing load. Was nuclear energy necessary? Could we employ Swedish methods of inter-seasonal storage in our more equable climate? Could we follow the French example in Brittany and build a barrage across the Seine? Then there was geothermal energy in Cornwall and Passive Solar Design. And what about offshore wind farms, Bristol Cylinders ("submerged and buoyant") and the Lancaster inflatable Bag?

In Central Milton Keynes — as everyone now seems to be calling it — eight houses enjoyed experimental energy the behaviour and response to domestic requirements of which were precisely recorded on a blue board of terminals marked "3rd Bedroom", "Floor Centre", "Floor Edge" (and I could almost swear "Cook") — but then people expect that kind of serious attention in CMK. Throughout the programme statistics stunned one on the head and hurtled away in the mind, while a few lingered to puzzle. Enormous windmills, for example, two hundred feet high and three hundred feet across, would only provide electricity for six thousand people which, given the size of the things, did not seem nearly enough.

Fatigue-inducing load was more skilfully avoided on this occasion by Panorama (BBC1), in which Philip Tidmarsh and Tom Bower managed to make a programme about foreign policy and international relations — specifically those of the United States (dormant) and Israel (active) towards Iran — that had everything from hawkish statements by Israeli officials on the need to overthrow Khomeini from within before chaos and Communism follow his death and American caution from former CIA men and Ambassadors still in shock from the mob-trauma of Teheran. The melodrama of arms-trading, secret deals and disguised imports of origin broadened to a clear account of opposing positions that gave equal plausibility to both sides.

Michael Ratcliffe

Galleries

Representational relish of the master collagist

Kurt Schwitters in England

Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal

James Cowie: The Artist at Work

Fine Art Society

Jean Marchand

Christopher Hull Gallery

Sickert and His Printmaker Friends

Parkin Gallery

Two major exhibitions dedicated to the same artist in the course of four months might seem disproportionate — even when they are some small posthumous compensation for half a lifetime's neglect. But Kurt Schwitters is an interesting and varied enough artist to stand up happily to so much scrutiny, and in any case the whole thrust of the show Kurt Schwitters in England, at the Abbot Hall Gallery, Kendal, until February 25, is so different from the memorable London show at Marlborough Fine Art last October that the enterprise completely justifies itself.

In Kendal, as the title suggests, the accent is entirely upon Schwitters's work while he was living in the Lake District after he had been released from internment as an enemy alien early in the war. Here too, despite the unlikely circumstances, Schwitters continued to work on his vaguely Dadaist projects, turning one wall of a remote barn into the third *Marsbau*, his indefinable form of sculpture/painting/installation which he had previously attempted in Hanover and then

again during the first stage of his exile in Norway. He also made collages and painted abstracts. But his principal occupation was painting portraits and landscapes.

One might suppose that this was out of dire necessity and responded to no artistic urges of his own. But, though he did indeed sometimes paint them for local tradesmen who supplied him with the basic necessities of life, or as a friendly return for hospitality, it is quite clear that he never, at any period in his career, looked down on his portraiture or his landscapes as anything less natural and valid a part of his activity than the most advanced and incomprehensible.

Which is very reasonable, since he was in fact a thoroughly accomplished representational painter, who obviously worked in the traditional forms, not only with facility but with great and painterly relish. Finally one may feel that the area of unique mastery is collage, which he arguably did better and certainly more magically and less literally, than anyone else. His abstract paintings too have their admirers, but they seldom seem quite right to me: too much like Theosophical thought-forms struggling ineffectually to be born. (Though I must admit that some of the smaller ones in the Kendal show are wonderful: the two tiny *Oval Paintings* of 1945 and 1947, making their effect with just a few discreetly distributed curves and dots of colour, or *The Pool*, from the mid-Forties, which arranges its not quite decipherable shapes in a manner recalling Arshile Gorky, before the fact.)

But the fully figurative work inhabits a different world. A number of the landscapes, and one or two of the portraits, such as *Mrs Horner*, suggest an unsuspected affinity with Kokoschka. But in most of them, he looks like a good, not quite placeable Post-Impressionist. The confident, saturated brush-strokes of the *Lakeland Scene* (c.1946), a subtle harmony in greens, or the more choppy, dynamic style of *The Bridge House, Ambleside* (1946), are very much of a piece with his briskly sketched portraits of local friends like *Mr Routledge* or his admirable flower-pieces. Was his heart in them? You need only look at some of the splendid

sketches he was always doing of scenes and people to see that it was. Perverse to the end, he refused to be categorized. Or are we perverse to want that?

We have another chance to make the acquaintance of a neglected-because-unclassifiable artist closer to home — our home, not his — in London with the Fine Art Society's presentation of the Scottish Arts Council's touring show James Cowie: The Artist at Work (until February 19). Cowie only looks unclassifiable, in that he went single-mindedly in his own direction throughout the Thirties, when no one else in England or Scotland was doing likewise; but, seen in an international context such as last year's big Centre Pompidou exhibition *Les Realités* 1919-1939, for that he was, except mentally, by a few British artists, the most original since his cool-toned, level-gazed brand of detailed realism can immediately be compared with the work of the German painters of the Neue Sachlichkeit group, or some of the equally neglected French artists who took themselves off the Ecole-de-Paris highway to abstraction around the same time.

For all that, he still remains a uniquely disturbing artist, isolated by his temperament and personal vision rather than by any eccentricities of style. Few who saw his amazing *Two Schoolgirls* (1934-35) in the Hayward's *Thirties* show will have forgotten it. The two girls sit side-by-side, not so much talking as looking towards each other in silent question; behind them is a classical cast; and they are holding what look like smocks on their knees. It is at once intimate and monumental; they look as undefended and impregnable as the *Mona Lisa*. And this same feeling of *temps mort*, of waiting for Godot, impregnates many of Cowie's paintings of people, four of the most important among which are included in this show along with a fascinating array of sketches and preparatory studies.

To my taste he is a little bit more telling when the mystery of his paintings remains implicit and undefinable; when, as increasingly in the Forties, he began to paint slightly surrealistic fantasies and weird symbolic pieces like *Noon*



Schwitters's "Mr Routledge" (left), a brisk (and perverse?) sketch of friendship; and detail from Sickert's etching "The New Tie", the work of a still-underestimated giant

(1946), with nude figures disposed ambiguously in realistic landscapes, the sense of airlessness becomes too oppressive, the ability to disturb too calculated.

But even here there is no doubt: the force behind his work; the passing years make him look more and more important.

While we are on the subject of neglect, it is well worth taking a look at the show of oils, watercolours, and drawings by Jean Marchand at the Christopher Hull Gallery, 570 Fulham Road, until February 13. Marchand was a near-contemporary of Derain, and passed through many of the same stylistic phases. Many competent judges (Roger Fry among them) thought as highly of his work, and yet though in London both O'Hanrahan and Crane Kalman have constituted themselves his advocates, here and elsewhere he has sunk into obscurity since his death in 1941, aged 59. Quite possibly he never consistently fulfilled his potential (but then

there are many who think the same of Derain after his brief and dazzling Fauve period), but there is a considerable body of worthwhile work, as can be seen here best in some excellent drawings of French landscape, town and mountain, which have an elusive Cubist flavour without pushing

too far into analysis: it is ultimately the senses rather than the mind which tell. And that, for Marchand's sort of painter, is just as it should be.

Certainly Sickert, in this country, has never suffered from neglect — or not overall, though the recent show of his later work (to some) how far his last years have been underestimated. But Sickert was a giant, and inevitably those around a giant tend to get overshadowed. The main discovery of Sickert and His Printmakers at Michael Parkin's in Motcomb Street until February 13 is not Sickert's prints

but then we know that already — but inevitably the work of the friend.

Some of them, like Whistler and Menpes, were quite grand and successful in their own right; others, like Walter Greaves and Thomas Way, were lesser members of Whistler's circle rather than Sickert's. But the prints of one is tempted to call them Sickert's hand-maids, for that gives just enough impression of the relationship — Sylvia Gosse, Wendela Boreel and Enid Bagnold can frequently take us by surprise and are on occasion as good as those of the master himself. Not consistently, though there is the catch. But it would still be far more agreeable to have an etching by Wendela Boreel at her best, as in *Mornington Crescent from Sickert's Window*, or *Window Shopping*, *Moses Stevens, Bayswater Square*, than one in which Sickert nods.

John Russell Taylor

London debuts

Pianistic enterprise

Few pianists arrive at their debuts with the enterprise and imagination shown by Alan Weiss in the first half of his recital, a judicious choice of sonatas by Haydn and Schubert surrounding Webern's Variations. The Haydn sonata, the C major work of 1783, was made as revolutionary as its date, with the first movement expressively laden with questioning lines, the second more comic than brilliant.

Schubert's D major Sonata also gained from Mr Weiss's willingness to chase character, even at the expense of continuity, to plead individually for each theme from a different point of view. His alteration in the first movement of bold statement and reflection was very effective, but so too was the mobile lyricism he brought to the slow movement and the finale, both of which became fantasies of song and agility.

In Webern, quite properly, the focus was closer, and Mr Weiss used all his considerable powers of articulation to examine each element of musical phrase, each chord and even on occasion each note.

Nothing of this kind was possible for the Breckin Ensemble, a group as odd in formation as in name, for they studiously avoided what masterpieces are available to mezzo-soprano, clarinet, viola and piano. Instead we had a curious miscellany of Latin-American and east European material, together with a 25-year-old sonatina rescued by Charles Camilleri for its debut baptism and a collection of songs by Spain's opus 103, in which voice and clarinet were made more to interfere with than support each other, and which threat-

ened to amble pleasantly for ever.

This dismal choice of repertory was especially regrettable when the performers had so much more to offer. The mezzo, Jennifer Boiman, showed off a young voice of surprising versatility, able to move speedily from winning brightness to soulful gloom in characterizing the separate numbers of Dvorak's *Gypsy Songs*, but she would not have been obliged to try so hard if she had sung them in English rather than Czech. Lynn Holman, on clarinet, had a good firm tone and enough musicianship to make much of mediocre stuff.

The Hertz Trio from Canada, with the much richer piano trio repertory to draw on, did well to base their recital on two big romantic works, Brahms's C major trio and Arensky's D minor, for their strengths lie in a full, unified tone, secure movement together and admirably firm yet flexible phrasing, particularly from violin and cello when they were playing together in octaves.

By way of contrast they offered the tenacious and turbulent second trio of Violet Archer, one of the many gifted women composers who flourish in Canada as nowhere else. This piece had been thoroughly mastered by the ensemble, and it showed them in a starker light, with more attention on clarity of counterpoint as the two strings initiated the pianist's two hands in the slow movement, for instance, and with quicker lines of communication flashing among the players.

Paul Griffiths

Seasons's Greetings

Greenwich

Discussing the bad old days of fortynight rep., John Osborne's autobiography spends a couple of paragraphs on the mass of long-forgotten formula comedies about family reunions. *Season's Greetings* is Alan Ayckbourn's contribution to this humdrum form.

It is Christmas Eve. Uncle Harvey is slumped in the best armchair, watching an old film on television. Belinda is decorating the tree while her husband looks after the drinks with a business air. Uncle Bernard is threatening to put on his annual puppet play. And you know it is only a matter of time before the festive facade begins to crack.

This being an Ayckbourn play, there is no point in spelling any more of the plot. We are back in his middle-class family circle of neglected wives, self-preoccupied husbands and relatives with drink problems and obsessive humours, where everyone hurts each other and nobody to blame. What counts, as always, is the ingenuity of whatever new patterns he manages to weave from the familial threads.

On those terms, the play is not in his top flight. He sets himself too main problems: how to write about Christmas without bringing children on, and how to release the feelings of the frustrated ladies. He tackles the first by keeping the kids in bed and the second by allowing Belinda's sister Rachel to bring a young novelist, with whom she is slightly acquainted, to stay with the family. This is

an unlikely move, and, as Clive the novelist is there mainly to arouse erotic interest and suspicion, he comes over as a blankly passive figure. Nigel Havers

I suppose that the theatre started something like this millennium ago, with men declaiming fierce and magical incantations in a ring of rapt listeners. Christopher Logue has made these translations from the *Iliad* for the last 20 years. He and Alan Howard take on an ever-strengthening role, simultaneously engaging in an increasingly concentrated drama by the minute as they become. To take one case,

Peter Vaughan's Harvey has given all the children guns for Christmas. He is a former security guard and before long he resumes that role officially patrolling the landing during the intriguing hidden hours of darkness, and finally pulling a gun on the departing Clive.

The night scene, in which Clive plausibly submits to an alcoholic wife the virginally-neglected wives, self-preoccupied husbands and relatives with drink problems and obsessive humours, where everyone hurts each other and nobody to blame. What counts, as always, is the ingenuity of whatever new patterns he manages to weave from the familial threads.

This scene winds up the first act. Thereafter, though the puppet show of Uncle Bernard (Bernard Hepton) goes as wrong as you could wish, the comedy cools to a bleakly discordant ending with snow falling and the party splitting up. It holds on course thanks to the preparations for fun and games. By now, Barbara Ferris, Gareth Hunt, Dame Judi Dench and the rest of Ayckbourn's fine company have taken on such independent life that you care for them for their own sakes.

Irving Wardle

War Music

Warehouse

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It was often as plain and

direct and noble as the real thing. They made a voice come alive across 30 centuries, two rather shabby, middle-aged men sitting at a table, standing up and pacing occasionally, and kept us on the edge of our chairs for two hours. Bentley said to Pope: "It is a pretty poem, Mr Pope, but you must not call it *Home*". We did better than that on this occasion.

Philip Howard

Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas

Gate, Battersea

How common it is I cannot say, but coincidence must be ruled out. After the first night, comes "Pax", of Book 19, in which Achilles comes back into the war, and so Troy falls. They divided the lines about two-thirds to Howard and one-third to Logue.

Achilles' marvellously versatile organ of a voice did most of the gods and heroes; his gravel-voiced sorcerer's apprentice took narrative and clownish parts.

The modern metaphors of rockets at Cape Kennedy or a man being speared as one detaches a sardine from a tin made one sit up; but so did Homer's contemporary metaphors jerk his audience back into the Bronze Age. And when Apollo strikes like a nuclear bomb or Achilles, riding to battle, says: "I know I will not make old bones", the hair at the nape of one's neck bristles.

It was often as plain and

named Raoul Duke who ingested the immense quantities of illegal drugs, alcohol and ether that gave his pictures of Las Vegas a peculiar, warped clarity.

Cars and desert highways, the Vegas strip, hotel rooms and many other locations are folded readily into the tiny scenes above the Louvre's public houses. Picture with the scenic tour is the book's mad humour, but a vital ingredient is missing. Mr Thompson writes like a dead man and sometimes he is a riot as well as Stewart Fox is woefully tame as Duke.

Peter Marinker, as the narrating half, suggests more danger but the exotic characterization of Duke's bizarre attorney, Chiswick, is the only thing that carries the threat and insights of the writing.

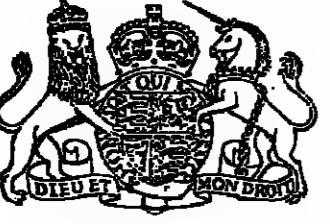
Ned Chalifet

• Noel & Gertie, Sheridan Morley's anthology based on the lives, letters, plays and songs of Noel Coward and Gertrude Lawrence, which had a one-night charity premiere at the May Fair last year, is to be seen at the Theatre Royal, Winchester, on February 14. It then plays for a week at the Hong Kong Arts Festival. Immediately afterwards, on March 1, it will be given at the Ambassador Theatre on Broadway, in a performance in aid of the American Actors' Fund, the first time they have invited an English company. Proceeds from this performance will also go towards the restoration of Coward's old home in Jamaica. Maria Aitken and Gary Bond play the title roles, and Alan Strachan produces.

Opera

Tensions of an empire in decline

Götz Friedrich's new production of *Der Rosenkavalier* in Stuttgart is a stimulating affair, but it stops well short of the window.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK

By Peter

For the

international

British

Court

and

the

Press

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Media

and

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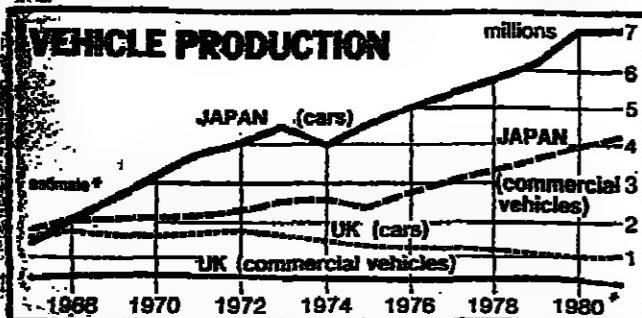
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Press

and

BUSINESS NEWS

More Japanese cars



Japan's 11 car makers say production targets for 1982 will boost output by 4.6 per cent to 11.69 million cars and commercial vehicles, more than half of them for export. Due to voluntary export restraint to the United States and European Community countries, exports are expected to be 6.11 million vehicles, only a 1.3 per cent increase on 1981's total.

Talbot call for subsidy

Talbot Cars in Coventry has asked the Government for a subsidy to save the jobs of the 1,900 workers at its engine-building plant. The workers have been laid off for the last six weeks because of troubles in Iran which hit Talbot's work on a valuable contract. They have now been given nominal 90-day redundancy notices which will be withdrawn if Government funds are made available.

Meanwhile another 1,500 workers at the company's Ryton assembly plant returned today after being laid off for a fortnight.

Timex ticks for \$125m

Timex Corporation, which manufactures the Nimslo 3-D camera at its plant in Dundee, has agreed to buy 800,000 of the cameras worth \$125m in return for distribution rights in the United States over the next two years. Timex will also take over all warranty obligations for the cameras in the United States. Marketing, advertising and promotion of the camera will remain in the hands of Mr Corvin Cianci, Nimslo's executive vice president in charge of worldwide marketing, who was formerly responsible for Polaroid's marketing programme. Shares of Nimslo International on the Unlisted Securities Market rose 7p to 150p on news of the deal. The Nimslo camera has been the subject of concern following the disclosure last November that Dr Jerry Nims, one of the company's joint founders, had disposed of his personal shareholding in the company.

Marry for money

Young married couples are being offered a year's free banking, personal loans at reduced rates, free mortgage valuations, commission-free foreign currency and travellers' cheques for the honeymoon, a discount on a subscription to the British United Provident Association and advice on insurance and making a will in the latest drive by Barclays Bank to attract new business.

MARKET SUMMARY

Profit takers move in

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 572.0, down 7.8
FT Gilts 84.65, down 0.50
FT All Share 327.88, down 3.10
Bargains 20,899.

All eyes remained fixed on Wall Street yesterday with the London market delayed at the latest set of United States money supply figures.

This appears to have ended, for the time being, last week's optimism about a Wall Street revival and has left economists undecided about which way United States interest rates will move next.

So equities decided to play it safe, and with two weeks of the account left to run, profit takers were abundant. The FT Index, which last week appeared set to break the all-time high, closed 7.8 down at 572.0.

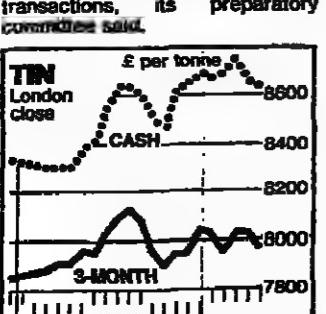
Gilts also had their fair share of sellers with prices losing as much as £1 in longs and 5½ in shorts as the pound came under renewed selling pressure.

An early feature was Fisons, a speculative stock which announced the sale of its loss-making fertilizer subsidiary for £25m. This produced an immediate flurry of takeover gossip, which lifted the price 38p to 218p. The German chemical group Bayer has long been tipped as a likely candidate.

Elsewhere, ICI, down 12p at 320p, was paying 51p for Arthur Holden, the lacquer and paint group. Holden, the subject of a dawn raid earlier this month by International Paint, which netted 12 per cent of the shares, rose 24p to 168p.

COMMODITIES

The Tokyo Gold Exchange, scheduled to open on March 23, is expected to trade 240 tonnes of gold annually in futures transactions, its preparatory committee said.



Dealing in tin yesterday was dominated by cash selling, which stabilized the price at around £8,600 a tonne. The market closed at £8,597. Forward trading, by contrast, was slow, the market influenced by the continued presence of heavy cash buyers and the availability of physical tin. The three months standard price ended the day at £7,995 a tonne, slightly reducing the backwardation. Traders were willing to "lend" metal, so carries were an important part of turnover.

TODAY

UK official reserves, CBI monthly trends, Capital issues and redemptions.

Unions sound warning on gas prices

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Gas prices to industry could rise by 60 per cent as a result of the Government's plans to end the British Gas Corporation's monopoly powers of purchase over North Sea gas, leading trade unionists claimed yesterday. The warning was given after a 90-minute meeting at the Energy Department at which members of the TUC's fuel and power industries committee told Mr Nigel Lawson, Energy Secretary, of their "root and branch" opposition to the Government's North Sea privatization Bill, being considered by Parliament.

The Bill is designed to pave the way for the sale of shares in the British National Oil Corporation later this year, as well as the ending of British Gas' monopoly purchase powers and the sale of its interests in several North Sea oil fields.

Mr John Edmonds, national officer for the General and Municipal Workers Union, said allowing oil companies to sell North Sea gas direct to industrial customers was likely to lead to a massive increase in industry's fuel bills.

Prices could rise from their present levels of between 25p and 30p a therm to between 40p and 50p a therm over the next few years. There would probably be a knock-on effect on domestic gas prices too, it was claimed.

Mr John Lyons, national organizer of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said it was inconceivable that companies such as Shell, Esso and

BP could also hit sales of electricity and coal.

The Chemical Industries Association, one of the leading campaigners for the ending of the British Gas' monopoly purchase powers, last night also criticized the union leaders' claim that industrial gas would rise.

The unions based their argument on claims by leading oil companies that they would need between 25p and 30p a therm to justify exploring new and so far undeveloped gas fields in the northern part of the North Sea. The highest price British Gas has so far offered any United Kingdom North Sea producer is around 17p a therm.

Some companies offer temporary wholesale price reductions while others guarantee a minimum margin to retailers. The various forms of support are now costing the companies the equivalent of £500m a year, according to the Motor Agents Association, the trade body for petrol retailers.

Nobody in the industry seriously quarrels with this estimate which means that Esso, Shell and BP (including National), each with about 20 per cent market share, could be facing support bills of up to £2m a week.

Petrol prices, which had then been rising to £1.70 and above, started to ease as long ago as last September. Support from the first of the large manufacturers started in October.

Behind the price war are several factors. There is an excess of refinery capacity in

Britain. Petrol sales are down, with the hard winter intensifying the slide, forcing hard even to hold their share of the shrinking market.

The oil companies also have a buying advantage with sterling stronger against the United States dollar in which both oil and refined products are denominated.

The big oil companies see the role of the spot market in Rotterdam, source of supply for the smaller independent retailers, as a key factor in fuelling the price war.

But this sector accounts for barely 3 per cent of the petrol market, according to the MAA.

More smaller independent retailers are expected by the MAA to be driven out of the business.

"Norsk-Hydro will also be an effective competitor alongside ICI, and that is good news from the consumer's point of view."

The rest of Fisons' 7,500 employees work in pharmaceuticals, horticulture and scientific equipment, with a further 2,000 employed in a joint agrochemicals venture with Boots. Fisons says the £50m from the sale should secure the future of these other sectors.

The deal is expected to be completed in the spring.

US rules out drop in interest rates

The United States will not act to lower its interest rates to alleviate world unemployment.

Mr William Brock, the United States trade representative, said in Davos, Switzerland, yesterday.

The United States interest rates and their effect on other nations' economics were discussed during the weekend at an informal European management symposium of industry and economy ministers from 20 countries.

"But we cannot and shall not reflate," Mr Brock told newsmen, adding that to do so would lead to a resurgence of the United States inflation.

Last Friday, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and M Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, appealed to the United States to lower interest rates, indicating there was a link between them and unemployment in the West German world.

Mr Brock urged the West to restrain the transfer of technology to the Soviet Union and reconsider whether larger credits should be granted to Eastern Europe. He said that West European countries should have looked at alternatives such as coal imports from the United States before going ahead with contracts for the supply of gas from the Soviet Union.

Sales of high technology to the Soviet Union had served to increase its military capability, nullifying increased Western spending on defence, he said.

Restraint in this area would be more effective as a means of pressure in response to martial law in Poland than a ban on the United States exports of oil to the Soviet Union, he added.

The Reagan Administration has been criticised in

Europe for failing to halt grain shipments while pressuring European countries to refrain from agreements which would make them dependent on Soviet gas for their energy needs.

Mr Brock's comments, indicating that America will continue to give priority to its domestic goals, gave further support to foreign exchange markets yesterday, the dollar, which made strong gains against major currencies.

The dollar raced ahead on foreign exchange markets yesterday as speculation mounted that the Federal Reserve may allow United States interest rates to rise in response to the recent high level of monetary growth, John Whitmore writes.

The United States currency moved above DM2.35 briefly before closing 4.43 pfennigs higher in London at DM2.348. Sterling held up better than most currencies, finishing 1.95 cents lower at \$1.8615. Its trade weighted index against a basket of currencies closed 0.2 higher at 91.8.

Eurodollar interest rates

were generally at least half a per cent higher in European trading.

The Reagan Administra-

tion has been criticised in

Daily Mail and General Trust PLC Statement by Viscount Rothermere, Chairman

This last year has seen the full effect of recession on industry both in this country and abroad. Inflation here has moderated but real interest rates, particularly in North America, have achieved an historic high level. Against this background it is pleasing to be able to report that, disregarding the special dividend from Shell received at the very beginning of our previous financial year, our gross Revenue this year from our general portfolio has been more than maintained and net Revenue after expenses and taxation at £3,059,000 shows only a small decrease.

You will notice in the Directors' Report that the Company is now considered to be a close Company for the purposes of taxation. In consequence, the Board intend to distribute materially all of the Company's Revenue after taxation.

After provision for the Preference Dividend, earnings for the year were 30.2p per share (against 31.8p per share last year, of which 1.5p per share was special) and the Board, therefore, recommending a total distribution on the Ordinary and K Ordinary Shares of 30.0p per share, against 27.5p per share last year.

In the last twelve months we have seen the rate of inflation decrease, but now tend to increase again; nevertheless, the world wide recession and high interest rates have allowed no easing of the pressures on profits; happily exports from the United Kingdom

have continued at a high level.

It is the North American economy, now itself in recession, which has most effect world wide, and the high interest rates there have strengthened the dollar by some 20%, which has helped industry here in its drive for exports; conversely the stronger dollar has meant greatly increased costs to our Associated Company as an importer of newspaper. It has meant also that there has been no relief on the cost of borrowing money, even though industrial stocks are now at much lower levels, and no help to the City Edge market.

During this last year we have realised the Government Stocks held, and we have taken out of the portfolio companies which it seemed likely the recession would affect the most. We have continued to invest more abroad and, from the Balance Sheet, you will see that at the year end we had considerable funds, both in Sterling and Dollars, awaiting the opportune time for investment.

The coming year must inevitably be one where income growth is likely to mark time, but I am hopeful that industry is now in a much better shape to take advantage of the upturn, of which there are just the first signs. We believe the shape of our portfolio will allow us to reap full advantage of the recovery when it happens.

Fisons sells off fertilizer division

By Rupert Morris

Fisons is selling its agricultural fertilizer business to Norsk-Hydro, of Norway, for £50m, subject to the approval of both boards and shareholders, the company announced yesterday.

Its fertilizer business may have made Fisons an international name, but for the past two years it has also been losing the company money. The division lost £1.1m before tax on a turnover of £1.94m in 1980. News of the sale sent Fisons' shares up 30p to 210p, and company sources were confident that the proceeds would enable Fisons to wipe out many of its financial commitments, and concentrate on the main growth sectors of its business, headed by drugs.

Fisons' fertilizer division, based in Felixstowe, Suffolk, with plants at Inningham and Avonmouth, has about 25 per cent of the United Kingdom compound fertilizer market, and 15 per cent of nitrogen fertilizers.

ICI, which claims about 50 per cent of the United Kingdom fertilizer market which is worth in total between £700m and £800m made public comment but was understood not to expect any big change in the industry.

Norsk-Hydro has promised to retain all 2,800 fertilizer division employees, and to honour all contracts.

Mr John Kerridge, of Fisons, chief executive said: "The fertilizer business will be in good hands as Norsk-Hydro has a strong commitment to agricultural fertilizers."

"Norsk-Hydro will also be an effective competitor alongside ICI, and that is good news from the consumer's point of view."

The rest of Fisons' 7,500 employees work in pharmaceuticals, horticulture and scientific equipment, with a further 2,000 employed in a joint agrochemicals venture with Boots. Fisons says the £50m from the sale should secure the future of these other sectors.

The deal is expected to be completed in the spring.

French prices warning

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said in Paris yesterday that the effect of France's new economic policies was uncertain and higher wages could push up prices.

Despite recruitment incentives and government moves to increase production, unemployment might not stabilise until the second half of this year, when it would affect about 6.5 per cent of the workforce, it said.

The comments were made in the OECD's first full assessment of the French economy since the Socialist government of President Francois Mitterrand came to power in June.

Mr Mitterrand pledged to reduce unemployment, which topped two million last October, by creating new jobs, and to revive growth by loan injections.

OECD experts, reviewing the short-term prospects, said unemployment may steady during 1982 and inflation may slow slightly compared with the second half of last year. France's external deficit will probably remain substantial.

"This type of performance is admittedly not entirely satisfactory," they said.

However, the OECD said this outlook should be compared with the trend in the 12 months up to mid-1981.



Ronson appeal in ACC takeover battle

Holmes à Court losing initiative

By Our Financial Staff

There is a growing feeling in the City that Mr Robert Holmes à Court may have lost the initiative in his bid to take over Associated Communications Corporation.

After setting up a considered and seemingly bullet-proof offer he may be prepared to listen to an arrangement on the sale of his 2.2 per cent of the votes and the 51 per cent of the ACC non-voters. He had already said the shares were not for sale, but added that it would be silly to add: "not at any price".

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

A peer's feat of Clay

Like Lord Emsworth, of Blandings Castle, Lord Aberconway, 69, (below) is fond of gardening but not of public speaking. Emsworth stunned the House of Lords and it took Aberconway 27 years to break his silence and speak to his assembled peers.

But yesterday Aberconway shamed aside the shyness of decades and warned off would-be bidders (RTZ? Consolidated Gold? Barlow Rand?) impudent enough to make a takeover offer. As chairman of English China Clays whose scars carve up Cornwall, Charles Melville McLaren, Baron Aberconway, yesterday put up a notice to trespassers.

Surely, he said: "We think it most unlikely that we would judge any such (takeover) proposition to be of benefit to the business as a whole". Haughtily he added: "We cannot conceive that any other organization could materially add to our technology in the fields of research into clay minerals, not to our expertise in mining and processing those minerals, not our commercial marketing them".

This disdain has rubbed off on Aberconway's successor as chairman of John Brown, the engineers, which fell down on its forecasts after making a cash call — not the way to the City's flinty heart. I asked plain Mister John Mayhew-Sanders, 50, would he resign? "No." Would he reinforce his board to relieve his loneliness as the only executive director? "Certainly not. I was put in to pull round this company, and I have."



Eng. Clays' Lord Aberconway

What's inn**2 name**

Restaurateurs Thérèse and René Rochon have a problem with their London restaurant Chez Solange. From February 11, they want to designate part of it Cinq à Sept, for Paris-style romantic after-work and pre-dinner drinks.

The problem is that London-style licensing laws dictate that the drinkery can't open until 5.30. Les Rochons have decided to stretch the drinking time until 7.30 and to keep the name. After all, Cinq Heures et Demi à Sept Heures et Demi just doesn't have the right ring, does it?

Frown at heel

A call for used footwear to be collected and sent to needy Poles is stinging Nicholas Calvert to put in the boot.

Calvert, who is secretary of the British Footwear Manufacturers' Federation, is hopping mad because millions of pairs of Polish shoes are exported to this country each year. Some, he says, are sold at prices which are below the value of the components alone on the British market.

The appeal for the used shoes comes from Charles Wheeler, the BBC's chief European correspondent, and was published in Calvert's local paper, the *Survey Advertiser*. Of the Poles, Wheeler says: "They need them badly. In sub-zero temperatures their feet are exposed through holes in their shoes."

Of the Polish leadership, their export policies, and of the Western governments and bankers who sustained them, Calvert says they "have not only denied Polish citizens footwear... but have also cost thousands of jobs in the UK footwear manufacturing industry."

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr A. S. Nunn has been elected chairman of the Institute of London Underwriters. Mr D. Town has been elected deputy chairman.

Mr S. L. Finch, who retired last year as deputy chairman of the Weir Group, has accepted an appointment to the board of P. I. Casting Group as chairman-elect to succeed Mr J. F. B. Jackson, whom Mr Jackson retires as chairman in May next.

Mr C. M. Keville has been appointed a director of C. T. Bowring & Co (Insurance).

Sir Campbell Fraser, executive chairman of Dunlop Holdings, has been appointed a non-executive director The Charterhouse Group.

Rupert Morris

Why Fisons and fertilizers parted company

Fisons and fertilizers have been synonymous in many people's minds for so long that yesterday's announcement of the £50m sale of the company's agricultural fertilizer division to the Norwegian firm Norsk-Hydro will come as a shock.

But in spite of Fisons' public denials that such a sale was imminent, it was certainly far from unexpected. Nor is it necessarily a disaster for the British chemical industry or for Fisons itself.

As Mr John Kerridge, chief executive, since mid-1980, explained, Fisons has been pursuing a policy of concentrating on the surer profit-making parts of its business, particularly drugs, more or less since he took office.

The fertilizer division, which has been the only consistent loss-maker within the group over the past two years, was drastically pruned a year ago when four works were closed with the loss of 1,100 jobs — more than a quarter of the workforce.

The division lost £1.1m in 1980, compared with a profit of £2.9m the year before. Half-year figures for the Fisons group in 1981 showed considerable overall improvement, with a pre-tax loss in the second half of 1980 being turned into a £1.6 million profit. But fertilizers were still showing a trading loss.

In retrospect, the severing of its one obviously unhealthy limb makes perfect sense. Fisons had been hard hit by recession, and its creditors were becoming more pressing. It also seems quite possible that the fertilizer division is now far more attractive than it was.

Said Mr Kerridge: "The significance of this sale is that it's a major relief on our balance sheet and enables us to concentrate all our resources on our growth businesses — horticulture, pharmaceuticals and scientific equipment.

"We have found the fertilizer business strategically difficult. Its investment intensive, and the size of the investment needed to develop it is better done by big companies."

A company like ICI, for instance, is already committed to fertilizers through its

the rest is taken up by small, geographically concentrated firms.

But besides the strategic reasons for Fisons getting out of fertilizers, the most immediately important reason was that it needed the money.

Trading profits from its various divisions in 1980 amounted to £16.3m. But finance charges of £12.5m reduced pre-tax profits to £3.8 million.

Fisons' particular difficulties and reasons for sale do not, obviously apply to

the rest of the group, which is a major relief on our balance sheet and enables us to concentrate all our resources on our growth businesses — horticulture, pharmaceuticals and scientific equipment.

"We shall know more about Fisons' precise financial position in a month when its preliminary results for last year are published.

In the meantime, while no substantial contraction of business such as this can be good news, it will undoubtedly ease the company's immediate financial problems, and in due course it is entirely possible that the

growth in its other divisions will outweigh the loss of one.

As the figures show, Fisons' turnover in fertilizers at £19.6 million in 1980 was almost as much as the rest of the divisions put together.

But growth is an entirely different matter.

While the fertilizer business was contracting, the drugs division, with new treatments being introduced for various allergies, has been showing growth of between 20 and 25 per cent, while other sectors have been growing by up to 10 per cent.

Last year's decision to abandon for safety reasons the drug Proxicromil was a serious setback. Fisons was understood to have spent £12 million on its

development, and it was intended to be an important so-called asthma treatment similar to Intal.

Pharmaceuticals have, however, remained Fisons' main source of strength, providing £7.3 million out of the £2.3 trading profit made in the first half of 1981.

In spite of the harmful effects of recession and reduced domestic demand, Fisons' agrochemicals division looks reasonably safe thanks to the link with Boots. Its most vulnerable sector would appear to be scientific machinery, exports of which were severely hit in 1981 by the strong pound.

But there is some optimism that last year's redundancies will be the last for a while.



Fisons' chairman, Sir George Buxton, unloads a loss-maker

Selling £100 million worth of air

Justin Dukes, managing director and Jeremy Isaacs, chief executive of Channel Four: aiming for 10 per cent of viewing hours

drawbacks for Isaacs and Dukes' task should not be an unduly difficult one for commercial television has been enjoying an unprecedented advertising boom in spite of the recession. Last year, ITV's net revenue leapt by 15 per cent to £511 million, thereby illustrating most advertisers' reluctance to take their business away from television despite its high cost.

Channel Four, which will increase the supply of airtime by some 60 per cent, seems certain to benefit, but it has other attractions for the advertiser as well. With its smaller, but more tightly defined audiences — Isaacs says he is aiming for 10 per cent of the total viewing hours — Channel Four should be able to attract advertisers who currently cannot afford the capital cost of a television campaign and are using the colour supplements or other media instead.

Yet, unlike most conventional brands, Channel Four will require two totally different marketing campaigns if it is to achieve these aims — one to persuade the total audience to commercial television. It is also expected to attract groups who do not generally watch ITV, such as businessmen and young people. Dukes, who was joint managing director of the Financial Times until taking up his new post last May, has

one for every ITV region — each with a different sales plan and pricing policy and each visiting the same advertisers and agencies. And that is not, including Channel Four's own marketing department, which, though embryonic at present, is expected to grow rapidly when a head of marketing is appointed in a few months' time.

Justin Dukes, who as deputy chief executive and managing director of Channel Four is in charge of the business side of the operation, accepts that there should be "no disharmony in the way the channel is presented". He and Isaacs at one time hoped a central sales force could be set up, alongside those of the regional ITV contractors, to sell advertising on Channel Four on a national basis.

Since the programmes would be the same all over the country, it seemed to make sense, but that battle had been fought and lost many months previously, in Parliament and outside, by the advertisers and agencies who wanted the existing ITV companies to have no part in the selling of the channel at all.

Dukes, who was joint managing director of the Financial Times until taking up his new post last May, has

Business Editor
What will Opec do now?

The downward pressure on oil prices shows no sign of abating. If anything, the chances that members of Opec will have to beat an undignified retreat from the price reuniification they achieved so tenaciously last autumn are increasing by the day. Both the "soot" marker and the increasingly busy oil futures markets in London and the United States are indicating that the new Opec \$34-a-barrel benchmark is no longer tenable in the present conditions of world oil glut.

Additionally, the sale should allow greater concentration of capital spending in growth areas, while the balance sheet itself will, of course, look distinctly healthier. At the end of 1981 debt may well have amounted to about 75 per cent of shareholders' funds. During the course of 1982, that figure should come down to around 50 per cent.

Even after yesterday's big jump — leaving the shares roughly two-thirds up on last year's "low" — a market capitalization of some £80m may not be fully discounting recovery prospects and the improved earnings quality. Some analysts are looking for £15m-£16m pre-tax for 1982 and appreciably over £20m for 1983.

Printing Over-capacity

The immediate crisis in the gravure printing industry may have been alleviated by last week's provisional agreement over redundancy at Reed International's Odhams in Watford. But the three main companies — Odhams, the British Printing Corporation's Sun Printers, and News International's Bemrose — are saddled with such overcapacity that a bloodbath still seems likely.

Cheaper Continental competitors have grabbed much of the mail-order catalogue business. That has left the British printers with the mass-circulation magazines, whose deadlines preclude printing abroad.

The gravure printers are also under pressure from the British companies using the rival web-offset method. Gravure has reigned supreme in mass-circulation colour printing — runs over about half a million — because it can give reasonable results on far cheaper paper. But recent advances in offset technology are closing the gap.

After a long period of under-investment the firms have recently been investing heavily in high-speed presses and computerized typesetting. However the unions have been very reluctant to shed enough manpower for them to benefit fully.

Industry observers believe that the British market cannot support more than two large gravure printers. Although the most sensible solution would be an agreed merger of the two Watford firms, Sun and Odhams, corporate realities make that unlikely. With the three firms together losing more than £10 million a year, the rationalization is more likely to happen when one of them makes unacceptable demands on its workers and clashes down unilaterally.

Fisons Changing shape

The fertilizer division has been withering Fison's roots for some years now, so it was little surprise that the share price leapt for joy at yesterday's news that the business is being sold to Norsk Hydro.

Fisons has, of course, been busy knocking the fertilizer division into rather better shape with some radical surgery over the past couple of years, but even though the division is now moving back into profitability, shareholders should have no reservations about the sale.

The prospect of obtaining a significant return of capital through the eighties without stepping up investment was probably none too bright.

In short, Fisons has dramatically improved its

prospects for the next few

New York money markets looked pretty sticky in early trading yesterday with the Fed funds rate bouncing back up to 15 per cent. It did so again this morning, of course, before drifting back down again.

Whether there will be a repeat performance this week remains to be seen, but foreign exchange operators are also looking over their shoulders for any new troubles in Poland — were taking no chances and pushed the dollar up to DM2.35.

Meanwhile, sterling interest rates held more or less steady, helped by the Bank trimming its dealing rates for all but Bank 1 bills.

What was fascinating the market was whether the Bank was leading rates down or simply flushing out the maximum possible number of bills in the face of a £500m shortage. In short, will it be there on the same terms today?

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovell Lane, London EC3R 8EP Telephone 01-821 1212**The Over-the-Counter Market**

	High	Low	Company	Price Chg.	Gross Divid.	% Yield	P/E Ratio
1981/82							
123 100 ARI Holdings 10% CULS	122	-1	10.0	8.2			
75 62 Airspring Group	70	+1	4.7	6.8	11.0	15.4	
51 33 Armitage & Rhodes	45	-	4.3	3.6	3.8	8.5	
265 187 Barnold Hill	205	-	9.7	4.7	10.0	12.1	
104 80 Deborah Services	80	-1	6.0	7.5	4.0	7.5	
130 97 Frank Horsef	129	-1	5.4	5.0	11.6	23.9	
78 32 Frederick Parker	78	-	1.7	2.1	33.9	—	
74 43 IPC	50	-					
102 93 Isis Conv Pref	105	+1	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3	
113 95 Jackson Group	95	-	15.7	15.9	—		
130 102 James Burroughs	113	-	8.7	7.7	3.0	6.7	
334 228 Robert Jenkins	250	-2	31.3	12.5	3.5	8.8	
59 51 Scruton's "A"	55	-1	5.3	9.6	5.5	7.5	
222 154 Torday & Carlisle	166	-1	10.7	6.4	5.3	5.9	
80 66 Twinlock Ord	125	+1	15.0	19.7	—		
44 27 Unilock Holdings	27	-	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2	
103 75 Walter Alexander	75	-	6.4	8.5</			

Profit taking

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Jan 25. Dealings End Feb 12. § Contango Day, Feb 15. Settlement Day, Feb 22.

Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1961/62																1962/63																														
High Low Stock								Int. Gross only Red. Price Chg'ge Yield Yield								High Low Company								Gross Div Vid Price Chg'ge per cent % P/E																						
1961/62								1962/63								High Low Company								Gross Div Vid Price Chg'ge per cent % P/E																						
BRITISH FUNDS																																														
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																																														
A - B																	C - E																													
102	103	Treas.	14%	1962	250	-	-	14,018	14.703	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118														
97	98	Treas.	14%	1962	250	-	-	5,450	14.479	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110														
93	94	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	9,150	14.580	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106														
90	91	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	1,210	10.073	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104														
87	88	Treas.	14%	1962	250	-	-	12,320	14.901	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100														
84	85	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	9,722	15.025	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97														
81	82	Treas.	14%	1962	250	-	-	10,508	13.364	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93														
78	79	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	6,160	11.020	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90														
75	76	Fund.	14%	1962-64	250	-	-	14,182	14.602	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87														
72	73	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	2,570	14.479	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84														
69	70	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	1,210	10.073	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82														
66	67	Treas.	14%	1962	250	-	-	9,722	15.025	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79														
63	64	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	10,508	13.364	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76														
60	61	Fund.	14%	1962-64	250	-	-	6,160	11.020	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73														
57	58	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	14,182	14.602	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70														
54	55	Fund.	14%	1962-64	250	-	-	2,570	14.479	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67														
51	52	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	1,210	10.073	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64														
48	49	Treas.	14%	1962	250	-	-	9,722	15.025	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61														
45	46	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	10,508	13.364	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58														
42	43	Fund.	14%	1962-64	250	-	-	6,160	11.020	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54															
39	40	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	14,182	14.602	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52														
36	37	Treas.	14%	1962	250	-	-	2,570	14.479	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49														
33	34	Exch.	14%	1962	250	-	-	1,210	10.073	14	14	14	14	14	14	14	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47													
30	31	Fund.	14%	1962-64	250	-	-	9,722	15.025	14	14</td																																			

Rugby Union

Beaumont meets his Waterloo and England acquire new general

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Steve Smith, the Sale and Lancashire scrum half, was named last evening as England's captain against Ireland at Twickenham on Saturday. The news was given by Eddie Rogers, chairman of Selectors, before the England team, from Doncaster, arrived, and at the end of a day in which the Rugby Football Union had announced that Bill Beaumont, after his head injury in the County championship final last weekend, would not be playing in the Water-
loo lock and Beaumont's partner in the Lancashire second row, will win his first cap.

The appointment of the buxom and irrepressible chieftain of Smith in his third international—one short of Dickie Jeeps's record for an England scrum half—is an impulsive one, although the captaincy must be as easily given to the hooker. Paul Williams, who has won 30 caps, "We are confident that Steve will do well," Mr Rogers said. "He is captain of his club. He's got the technical ability, he's got the commitment of the players, and it will be a popular choice with the lads."

After spending the day at his family textiles business in Lancashire, Beaumont looked in his usual state of well-being and good cheer when joining the England party at Stamford Bridge. "I'd be such a long time since I sat in the stands for a big game. I don't know what the hell I'd do," he said. "I'd be rooting for our winning side." Sydall, who is 25, will be

happier jumping at No 2 in Beaumont's position at the lineout rather than at No 4, where he started his Lancashire career.

As Beaumont observes, Sydall has proved himself a stern competitor in some good class rugby, not only in 26 appearances for his county, but in two for the North. He was on the right side in a famous victory by the North over the All Blacks in 1979. He has also played for the under-19s and 23 groups and for the B side. He is a quantity surveyor with the Atomic Energy Commission.

Sydall said: "It is great to have a splendid tour of Argentina last summer. Like vintage wine, he seems to be maturing nicely in his 31st year.

Happily, there is no threat to Beaumont's rugby career, and with luck, he will be playing again on Saturday week, all set to return to England duty against France on February 20.

Bill Beaumont, after his only

one decision after their doctor Leon Walkden, had spoken with the leading neurologist who examined Beaumont yesterday morning, and advised him that it would be foolish to play this weekend.

It has been the Union's policy to recommend rest of at least a fortnight for those receiving concussion or similar injuries. This was the case when Mike Sleeman was concussed in the Australian match.

Maurice Colicchio, who injured his knee in the Calcutta match at Murrayfield, did not play for his French club, Angoulême, last weekend, because he felt he was not quite fit enough for another game. But he came through the training with flying colours last night. So that was to be expected.

"I'm not going to be forced to go into the Irish match without either of their British Lion locks forwards.

The England team and reserves

were at St Mary's Hill, on Thursday afternoon.

The senior English rugby club strengthened their opposition to the meeting at Moseley, but agreed plans for a national merit table to be forwarded to the Rugby Union.

Sydall, who is 25, will be

French 'revolution' banishes Beziers for buoyant Bayonne

Basque gambit could recall great days

By Gerald Davies

When the French rugby team was announced last Wednesday, Jacques Fouroux, the national coach, said that the revolution was "quite revolutionary".

The crowds have not stormed

the French Federation offices as yet,

nor have the hooligans started

riots in the streets, but Fouroux and his colleagues are sufficiently aware that there is a growing dis-

enchantment for the national game within France.

The professional critics as well as the general public have become disillusioned with the game, which is no longer played with the same sparkle as of old. None of the modern batch of players, it is felt, can hold a candle to the likes of Masso, Villeneuve, Caster, Dauga, the Spaeth brothers, and others. There are no genuine Rugby heroes. Rich captains who light up the present scene, and the game as a whole has lost its Gallic joie de vivre.

The French XV has played in the dour style of the Béziers Club for the past decade, the national club competition having been dominated by one club, Béziers, who have won the championship on nine occasions. Their style is based on a powerful and efficient pack with the half-backs kicking in support. Guided by their success, and instead of developing the virtues of the traditional characteristics for the running game, France have attempted to emulate Béziers.

Such power rugby brought success in the form of the grand slam and Fouroux's campaign in 1977, but it did not endear itself to the minds and hearts of Frenchmen, and after the euphoria of disengagement set in, if the championship had been won, it is argued, it had been at a price.

Thus, though Jean Pierre Ville has attempted to bring his influence to bear by expanding the game, he has been limited in what he can achieve by the choice of players at his disposal, and the condescending philosophy of the national coaches, so that the French game has changed little in five years.

It can also be said that such

success as they have had has been

shortlived and limited in scope. They have been successful only in the European context. Whilst they won the grand slam in 1977, they lost the international series the following year in South Africa.

Within months of repealing the fees in 1981 they lost a series in Australia; and at the start of this season lost twice at home to New Zealand. But more than this, the shop window of the game at international level does not reflect the way French people want the game to be played. The limited game has limited appeal and limited success.

To underline this, rugby in France can no longer rely on a readily accepted audience. Attendances at club matches have dwindled, and there were poor gates for the All Black games. For the first international in Toulouse the stadium was half empty, which is unheard of in that regard in France.

The country's image has other and most probably more important repercussions, not only in France. Parents and youngsters no longer find the tough image appealing.

The referees also are concerned. Earlier this season, Marcel Pujol, a former international and now a referee, had to be escorted from a stadium for fear of assault. It is not that winning is made to be too important, it is that losing is considered so dramatic.

The analogy to Rugby serves to help explain soccer in particular is a compelling attraction in World Cup year, for which France have qualified. It may be a sign of the times that France and New Zealand, both great Rugby nations, should be the only ones to receive substantial public support. The Welsh Rugby Union may sigh with relief that the Welsh soccer team has narrowly failed.

Besides the definitive Béziers style, there is also a Basque style. While still holding to the traditional virtues of the French handball game, and is played mainly in the southern region.

It may not be the stuff of which French champions are

made, it is none the less one the French admire most, but which they have not yet mastered. There is a need to broaden the image of the game, so as to express the joy as well as the intense competitiveness of Rugby.

Now, with five Basques at Cardiff on Saturday, Davies, who suffered a leg injury while playing against Ireland last Saturday week, was asked to take part in the team's tough two-hour training session last night and has been able to carry out only light training. His injured right leg is still painful

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Athletics

Mrs Elder races closer to Capes' record

By Norman Fox

Athletics Correspondent

British's most successful indoor athlete, Verona Elder, moves closer to Geoff Capes's record number of appearances and 17-year-old Julie Rose, from Ashford, gains her first senior national race in the team trials.

The Netherlands at Croydon, tomorrow week.

Mrs Elder, who won her eighth WAAA 400 metres title at Croydon last Saturday, will be making her 64th appearance for Britain.

The 20-year-old from Newmarket, Suffolk, will run with Paula Fudge, who holds the world record for 5,000 metres.

In the men's match, Paul Davies, from Luton, will make his 55th appearance for Britain in the 400 metres, while Chris McGeorge, the winner of the AAA 800 metres indoor title and Graham Williamson, who won the 1,500 metres on Saturday, will hope to maintain their promising early season form.

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Tennis

Wimbledon—and Lendl's face turns cold as clay

From Bryan John

Delray Beach, Florida, Feb 1

Lendl has the look of a player who has forgotten the dread depression that goes with defeat. He has built up his confidence over eight tournaments during which he has won 39 matches, including two against John McEnroe.

But mention Wimbledon to this 21-year-old Czechoslovak and his expression and attitude change. "How do you think you will get on against McEnroe at Wimbledon?" I asked, after watching Peter McNamara in the final of the WCT Gold Coast Cup here.

Lendl fidgeted at Little, looked down at his hands and replied:

"I don't like playing on grass and I don't learn very quickly how I won't be able to handle the change of meeting him. I would like to play him there but I usually work mainly in the southern region."

He admits that the split will cost him a lot of money, but he has no plans to remain in the south. "I am not considering grass-court tournaments because I am not good at them," he says.

Connors may not walk out

come at the WCT finals in Dallas in April. The champion will be the highlight of the year for WCT and probably, from a financial viewpoint, for Lendl, who is a star attraction for it.

He will be asked to play in the final of the Men's Combined event at the Alpine World Ski Championships next month.

The referee's role will be to make sure that he is not beaten by his partner, Michel Vautier.

Connors, who has won the Grand Prix circuit last year, is not

going to let him off easily.

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Ice skating

The one threat to British pair's dominance

From John Hennessy

Lyons

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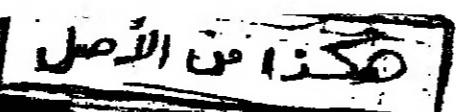
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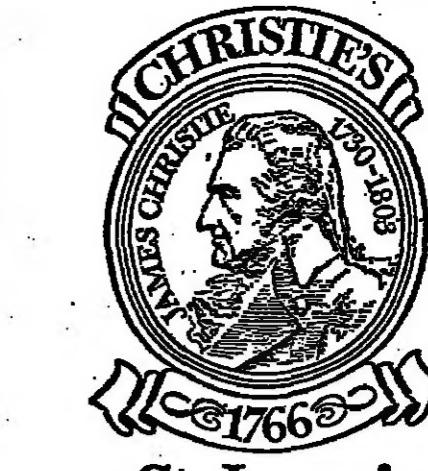
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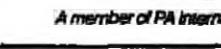
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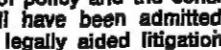
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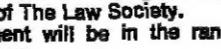
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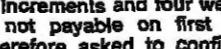
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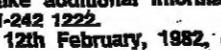
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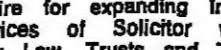
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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV/LONDON

Radio 4

Radio 3

Radio 2

Radio 1

World Service

9.05 For Schools, College: Spanish conversation. 9.53 French language. 9.53 Spanish conversation. 10.10 Look and Read. 10.35 Religious and Moral Education. 11.00 Who's Captain Cook on his final voyage of exploration. 11.17 Television Club. 11.38 Shakespeare in Perspective: Measure for Measure. 12.05 Willy Russell — *Willy-nilly*. 12.25 *Wilby* with Richard Dillane and Meira Stuart. 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only: Financial report and news headlines with subtitles). 1.00 Pebble 828 at One With two explorers — Roger Chapman and John Blashford-Snell. 1.45 Bed and the Cherry Tree. For the very young. 2.00 You and I. 2.15 Your Country's Music. 2.30 Schools, Colleges: Electricity in Music. 2.40 Communicate! The cartoonist. 3.10 Tonics a Tit. Welsh comedy series. 3.40 So You Want to Stop Smoking? (r). 3.53 Regional news (not London).

11.00 Play School presented by Sarah Long and Don Spencer. The story is Mirror Mix-Up by Margaret Joy. 11.25 Closedown. 3.55 Reflections Ireland: A view of their country by Irishman Patrick Carey (r).

3.55 Play School. For the under fives (shown earlier on BBC2).

4.20 Cartoon: Secret Squirrel in Not so idle idol (r).

4.25 Jackanory. Tony Aitken reads part two of The Eggbox Brownies.

4.40 Animal Magic. Johnny Morris and Terry Nutkin take a look at animals past, present and future.

5.05 John Cowper's Newsround.

5.15 Grange Hill. Episode nine of the secondary school drama series.

5.40 Match with Richard Baker. 6.00 South East Six. 6.25 Nationwide introduced by David Dimbleby and Frank Bough.

6.55 Cartoon: Bugs Bunny in Hare Devil Hare.

7.05 Doctor Who. Part two of Kind starring Peter Davison and Richard Todd.

7.30 A Question of Sport. A quiz between two teams — one led by Bill Beaumont, the other by Wifie Carson.

8.00 Jerry and Jane. Domestic comedy series.

8.30 Solo. Felicity Kendall stars as Gemma — a liberated lady (r).

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De Lorean blames sales fall

Continued from page one
valuable records. "We are still suffering gross inefficiencies because of that. We were diligent in not having second copies but we were going so fast we did not have the people to duplicate these things. It was a serious blow. It cost us an almost incalculable amount of money."

He said the car had tremendous consumer acceptance. "In November we had firm, legally enforceable, dealer orders for about 5,000 cars for the following quarter. We felt cool, calm and confident that everything was wonderful."

But then the sale of new cars dropped sharply. "Annual sales fell from 8.3 million units in November to six million in December and under six million in January. Suddenly the industry went into the ash can."

"With these firm orders we set our production schedule and started to deliver. We have never been adequately capitalized. We have always worked on the basis that as fast as we build a car we have to sell it."

"In the meantime dealers suddenly sold us that with the marketing slowdown they could not take the cars."

Everybody was questioning the company's financial viability but the car was close to the quality of any car built in the world. "The worst is behind us and we need to re-establish the financial credibility of the company."

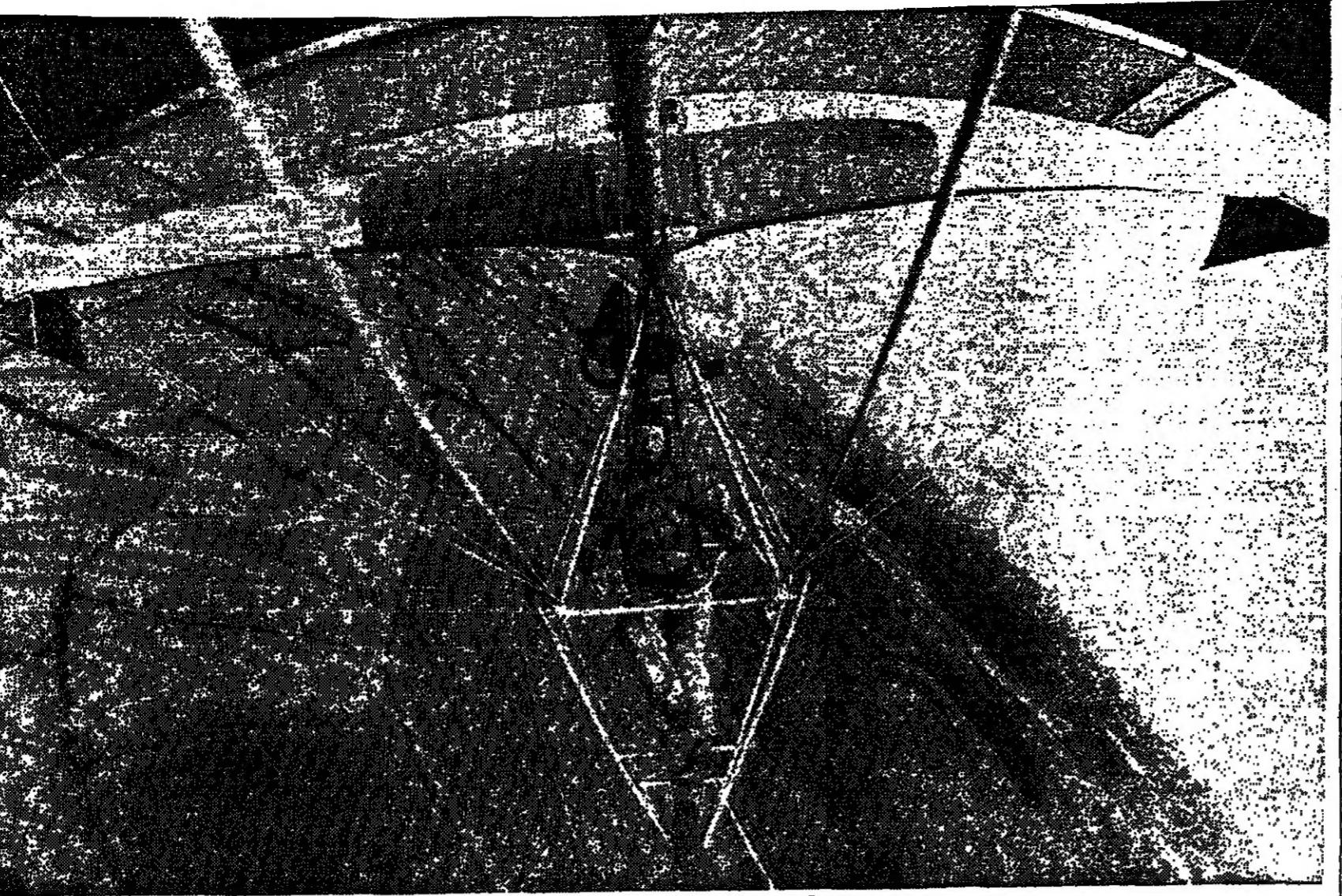
There had been misunderstandings about his personal interests. Three times he had offered to give his shares back to the Government.

The company's assets were on the balance sheet at £35m. "That is not a sick, insolvent company. It is important that if people are well on the balance sheet at £35m, the taxpayers' money they should not make statements that are detrimental to our continued existence."

He still hoped that a private investor would emerge to purchase or merge the company. "We are looking hard for one, for a totally non-government company so that we can fulfil the market potential. We are still selling the car, even with terrible publicity, at the rate of 10,000 to 12,000 cars a year."

"That is more than enough to sustain the workforce we have now. With a little bit of favourable publicity there is no question in my mind that we could be employing 2,700 people again by the spring."

The company had made \$5.7m profit in the quarter ended August 31 last year and \$4m in the quarter to November 30.



Mr Ian Stokes gets to grip with the controls of an Eagle microlight aircraft over Bodmin Moor, Cornwall.

High flying in the bargain basement

By Ronald Faux

Private flying in Britain, depressed by high fuel costs and competition from American flying schools, could be helped by the revolution that has begun in lightweight aviation.

The Civil Aviation Authority has drawn up its proposals for the operation of microlight aircraft which leave the day-to-day running of the sport to the pilots and allow the trainees to count their hours spent in the cheap saucers towards their training, safety and ensuring that the small aircraft are airworthy, largely to the BMAA.

Instead the Civil Aviation Authority has insisted only that pilots should be physically fit, properly trained in aviation law and flight rules and taught the technical aspects of microlight aviation.

The weight and wing loading restrictions on microlight aircraft ensure that they are slow-flying and likely to be very stable. New models arrive from the United States and Australia in remarkable numbers and within the limits the designers have produced aircraft able to cruise at 60 mph and climb at 1,000 ft a minute. They are single or twin seat aircraft and cost between £2,000 and £4,000.

Microlights are the breed of aircraft that developed from the United States space programme and range from powered hang gliders to new types of rigid-wing lightweight aircraft.

It calculates that with all the new regulations in force flying a microlight should cost no more than £6 an hour compared with at least £40 an hour to train on a conventional aircraft, which microlight pilots are apt to refer to as "spam cans".

But because of the crowded airspace over Britain, with a plethora of controlled zones, air corridors and areas used by low flying military aircraft,

One company dealing in particularly lively machine begins by training pilots in a

planes that offer exciting flying for a fraction of the normal cost.

The development is welcomed by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots' Association and by many flying schools in Britain.

The British Microlight Aircraft Association (BMAA), the governing body of the sport, is reassured that the Civil Aviation Authority seems prepared to regulate with a soft touch and hopes to delegate responsibility for training, safety and ensuring that the small aircraft are airworthy, largely to the BMAA.

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But because of the crowded airspace over Britain, with a plethora of controlled zones, air corridors and areas used by low flying military aircraft,

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conventional aircraft for seven or eight hours. "If we have any doubts about the person wanting to buy one of our aircraft, we will keep the propeller until we are absolutely sure that he is safe," an instructor said.

The new regulations that come fully into operation this year will move this responsibility largely to the BMAA.

The association's membership has risen from 400 to 1,800 in a year and the expectation is that in three years' time 5,000 pilots will be qualified or under training.

Pilot magazine, which covers business and pleasure flying, recently surveyed the microlight scene and pointed to the sharp improvements that have been made in strength, reliability and lower noise levels. "No longer can the establishment regard the BMAA as a bunch of oil-stained cloud muggers with flies stuck in their teeth", Pilot declared.

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years, one because it is thought he overpressed the machine and the others because the aircraft took off incorrectly rigged.

The microlight pilot sits strapped to his seat with the elements rushing past him: exhilarating on a fine day but impossible in cold, wind or cloud. The sport will be governed as much by the weather as the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr Ron Bott, secretary of the BMAA, claimed that the association's main training spoke for itself. "They are slow flying machines which means that if they crash the pilot can normally walk away. The people who take up the sport are generally hang glider pilots, holders of expired private pilot's licences who cannot afford to fly on normal aircraft and people who simply take it up because they have always had a frustrated urge to fly. The spirits of Icarus and Biggles are alive and well it seems, and airborne in microlights.

Jonathan Player

Frank Johnson in the Commons

Lawson missile fails to vaporise Benn

Britain's nuclear power programme was the subject of the main debate yesterday.

In the opening speech, Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary for Energy and reportedly one of the Cabinet hawks, used a nuclear weapon on Tony Benn, who was in a hardened site on the Labour backbenches. Mr Benn survived.

As all those right-wing apologists for civil defence had always predicted, if Lawson were ever used many citizens would still survive.

Not that Mr Lawson would accept that he had done anything other than take out Mr Benn as a major nuclear power. But politicians never agreed as to whether, in an argument, they have been blown to bits. Mr Benn went on to make a confident speech.

The weapons system which Mr Lawson deployed was a quotation from one of Mr Benn's speeches as Secretary for Energy in 1978. Mr Benn had put in a good word for the PWR (Pressurized Water Reactor).

Since then, hysteria about even the peaceful use of nuclear power has become a recreation of the Higher Education Left. So Mr Benn has changed his attitude and become much more critical of the PWR. He has to follow the polytechnic masses, for he is their leader.

At least, this is no doubt how Mr Lawson sees Mr Benn's motive. Mr Benn sees the change as part of science's never-ending quest for knowledge.

Sometimes Mr Rees disappears up one of his own sub-clauses. None of this seems to have any effect on his quality as a politician. It is rather able. Certainly, he was a perfectly satisfactory minister. His career is living proof of the puffed-up claims of mere, meretricious eloquence.

Mr Rees embodied honest in his speech for half an hour without any of us understanding a word of his true beliefs about these dark subjects.

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weather as the Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr Lawson added that, "for example", it was his predecessor as Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Member for Bristol East, who had something to say on the subject in 1978.

Whereupon, he quoted Mr Benn as having said that "we must develop the option of adopting the PWR system in the early 1980s" and that the electricity supply industry's intention of ordering a PWR station "is endorsed by the Government".

Amid this blast, Mr Benn sat on the backbench. With which was just as well since sublime courage, he continued to take notes, his eyes

were emboldened honest in his speech for half an hour without any of us understanding a word of his true beliefs about these dark subjects.

The Secretary of State quite fairly referred to my speech of 1978, he casually observed in parenthesis. But that was when the situation was different. New information became available in 1979, he conveniently added.

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